Title: Need to take steps to check deforestation in Sunderbans area in West Bengal.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, Sunderbans area in West Bengal, bordering the Bay of Bengal was once renowned for its Tiger Project and unique flora and fauna. But unfortunately, it has now fallen on bad days resulting from its deforestation. The bane of the whole problem is that the timber traders in connivance with some local people who are poverty-ridden and ignorant of the resultant damage being caused to their forest wealth as a result of this deforestation - are clandestinely getting the trees uprooted and carting them for being sold at a very high price.

It is high time the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, responsible for the maintenance of the Tiger Project in Sunderbans and its guardian for ecological protection, moves in the matter and puts an end to these nefarious trade practices and save the scenic forests from degradation.

Further, Sir, the nature too is also taking its own toll inasmuch as during the tide, the sand brought by it accumulates and spreads and ultimately uproots the trees. Since the Ministry is also responsible for the preservation of biosphere ecology in this region, it is high time that it consults some experts and devise some effective measures to check that the sand does not uproot the trees but is utilised more gainfully and purposefully.